

of airline service it is important that new training requirements have their desired effect of improving safety while avoiding any unintended consequences that may decrease the number of skilled pilots.

Specifically it is my concern that students looking to get their pilots license could be forced by financial considerations to attend pilot training programs with an emphasis of meeting the flight hour requirements inexpensively by flying straight and level courses without mastering important safety skills.

I support provisions that specify that certain academic training courses can be credited towards the total number of flight hours required by this Act. I believe that this language should be further improved through the normal legislative process to ensure that high-quality outcome orientated training programs are given more credit towards this requirement than other programs.

While I will be voting in favor of this legislation in order to ensure that funding for Federal Aviation Administration, FAA programs that support aviation operations in North Dakota do not lapse, I believe it is important that new safety requirements are appropriately constructed to recognize the tremendous benefits that our nation's accredited flight schools provide.

ASSISTANCE, QUALITY, AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman MARKKEY, and their capable staffs, for working with my office over the past year to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to avoid a repeat of the outrageous abuse of the public trust that left many of my constituents in Crestwood, IL, without clean drinking water for over 20 years.

In 1986, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was alerted that Village of Crestwood officials were piping in contaminated drinking water to its citizens.

Despite warnings from the state agency to end this illegal practice, incredibly, it took another 20 years, and a personal investigation from a courageous and determined private citizen, my constituent, Tricia Krause, before the state finally went back out to inspect the water supply and found that contaminated water was still being used. Twenty years!!!

Mr. Speaker, my amendment to H.R. 5320, which was adopted unanimously in committee, will compel the U.S. EPA to issue a final rule, within 12 months, requiring public water systems and states agencies to submit all compliance monitoring data electronically.

This will allow the U.S. EPA to update their systems to gather accurate and timely data collection so they are able to act more quickly and effectively against violations, especially when the public's health is in jeopardy.

This bill will also require U.S. EPA to categorize any violations of federal drinking standards and determine what types of follow-up inspections are needed, as well as the frequency of inspections the state will need to carry out, depending on the risk to public health.

By enacting this bill, as Representatives of the people, we will be able to better ensure that all citizens have access to clean, safe drinking water, and that the outrageous acts that resulted in the toxic contamination of Crestwood drinking water are never repeated.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BILL SIGNING OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID LEGISLATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak on acknowledgement of the 45th Anniversary of the signing of the Medicare and Medicaid legislation.

In 1965, the United States Congress made a commitment to our nation's most vulnerable citizens when it passed into law legislation that created Medicare and Medicaid as part of the Social Security Act. We as a nation decided that the elderly, poor children, the blind, and the disabled would never be denied proper medical care because of their inability to pay. When President Lyndon Johnson signed the bill and made it law on July 30, 1965, millions of elderly and poor people were spared needless worry and suffering. It was one of our nation's finest moments. We displayed the compassion and will that makes this country great. Access to adequate health care is a right not a privilege.

Please join me today in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the bill signing for Medicare and Medicaid.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that those who heroically responded to the 9/11 terrorist attacks should get the treatment, compensation, and liability protection they need. The American people are grateful to those the ground zero workers and the emergency responders that worked heroically, day and night, for months in rescue, recovery and cleanup efforts at the World Trade Center site. Unfortunately, the approach this bill takes to accomplish these goals is unreasonable and irresponsible.

During committee hearings on reenacting the 9/11 Fund, I expressed the view that if the fund is reenacted, it must be done in a manner that properly compensates the victims while at the same time protecting the taxpayers.

First, I asserted that if the Fund is reenacted it must provide adequate compensation to the victims without handing the keys to the U.S. Treasury to trial lawyers. Unfortunately, this bill does not contain these protections. Rather, the bill allows trial lawyers to request com-

pensation from the fund for work that is not directly related to their clients' recovery from the fund.

Second, I stated that if the Fund is reenacted it must include provisions that will protect the U.S. taxpayers. However, instead of protecting the taxpayers, this bill abdicates Congress' legislative authority to the unreviewable and virtually unbounded discretion of the Special Master.

Third, I counseled that if the Fund is reenacted it should be for a reasonable, but limited, period of time. Once again the authors of this legislation did not listen to my advice; rather, they propose to keep the fund open for 21 years despite congressional testimony by Special Master Ken Feinberg that "no latent claims need such an extended date."

Finally, I suggested that if the fund is reenacted it should be paid for. Apparently, the bill's authors listened to me on this count, but unfortunately, rather than choosing a pay-for that protects U.S. taxpayers, they have chosen one that will actually cost American jobs.

We could be considering a reasonable consensus proposal to reenact the 9/11 Fund today. Instead, I have to urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation because not only does it fail to protect the taxpayers, but it also fails to ensure that those REAL victims that answered the call of duty on September 11, 2001, will actually get the care that they deserve. Unfortunately, we have brought a bill to the floor today that will cost American jobs and creates gimmicks to hide the bill's true cost.

The taxpayers and those who responded to the 9/11 attacks deserve better.

HONORING CHIEF JUDGE DANNY DAVIS FOR HIS TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Judge Danny Davis for his twenty six years of service as the Chief District Court Judge of the 30th Judicial District in Western North Carolina. During his thirty one years of experience in the courtroom Judge Davis distinguished himself as a superior legal mind, as well as a patient, restrained, and fair jurist.

In the eyes of Judge Davis, an effective judge must listen to both sides of an argument and form a sound legal opinion based on fact, while also maintaining a courteous and respectful demeanor. Holding true to his words, Judge Davis is best known for his fairness and sound reasoning.

Judge Davis has always strived to improve society, leaving his community better than he found it. Throughout his career, Davis has exemplified the highest standard of legal excellence, maintaining the strongest sense of character while reaching a consensus.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Judge Davis on his retirement. He has exemplified real leadership in his ability to ensure that the utmost fairness is in our nation's judicial system. It is truly an honor to recognize him for his many years of service and dedication to Western North Carolina, and I urge my colleagues to support this remarkable jurist.